

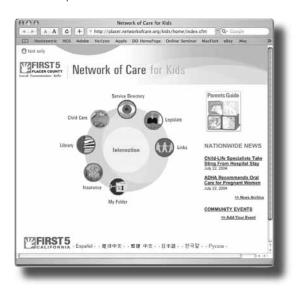
Supporting collaborative change

"A movement to create a community culture shaped by care for our children"

Proposition 10 became law in 1998—the first time in California history that a cigarette tax would fund prenatal care through services for five year olds. Autonomous county-wide commissions were set up to set funding priorities.

Don Ferretti, an ICA course grad and now coordinator of Placer County California's 'Prop 10 Commission,' was tasked with creating a new organization. Don reflects, "We didn't have to use prehistoric models. We created a network organization capable of collaborative thinking."

"The Commission wanted to involve the community in deciding how to use the Prop 10 funds and ICA's group facilitation methods were used to develop the consensus. California law allowed for innovation; ICA provided the core processes."



Don adds, "Our partner organizations focus on program results using ICA's 'focused conversation method.' We type up the conversation notes, and post them on the 'Share the Learning' part of our web site so all parts of the County can read about what is being learned with the 'prenatal to five' population. Sharing information across traditional boundaries becomes very important."

"The open county wide conversation about children's brain development has [helped] people see why timely services are so important. For a

young mother and her baby the time frame is NOW. We can't spend two years planning. The fact that our children's healthy brain development is at stake creates a sense of urgency in our work.

"Organizations have also changed the way they determine eligibility. Prop 10 Commission

'03 Highlights at a Glance

- 136 trainers in the *ToP** *Network* delivered 117 courses with 1,528 participants
- initiated the year-long Mastering the Technology of Participation* program in four cities
- facilitated a Social Security Administration advisory panel on helping America's disabled more easily find work

partners now ask, 'What can we do for you today?' and then complete the needed paperwork. Intake workers ask, 'What else is going on in your life and what other outcomes would you like to achieve for yourself or your family?' No one agency can insure families outcomes on its own. All our partners identify needs and make connections.

"Our partners help the early childhood development community connect with the people. The ICA's focused conversation method has given the community a way to shape early childhood development. Just like in nature, diversity and interdependence in the child welfare system ensure stability and sustainability. ICA methods are the tools that help us think together in new ways and take collaborative action on our children's behalf."

Methods of Facilitative Leadership

Technology of Participation®—organizational strategic planning, facilitation methods training and consulting, technical assistance and capacity building